

GALLERY NOTES

Vol. 7 No. 2



LYME ART ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 222; 90 LYME STREET
OLD LYME, CT 06371
(860) 434-7802

May 1997

Upcoming Events

Monday, May 2-May 4
LAA hosts "Expressions '97"
Benefit of the Lyme-Old Lyme
Junior Women's Club

Monday, May 5, 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
LAA's 6th Annual Associate Members
Exhibition receiving day.

Tuesday, May 6, 3:00 p.m.
General Business Meeting

Saturday, May 10, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
6th Annual Associate Members Exhibition
Opening Reception
Exhibition continues until June 1

Sunday, May 18, at 10:30 a.m.
Spring Annual Meeting

Monitored Painting/Drawing Sessions
are open to all artists.

Call Doug Smith to register (434-6225).

Tuesdays...

May 6, May 13, May 20, May 27
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 1, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
73rd Annual Spring Juried Exhibition
receiving day and pick-up day for the
6th Annual Associate Members Exhibition

Monday, June 2, noon to 4:30 p.m.
73rd Annual Spring Juried Exhibition
receiving day

Tuesday, June 3, 3:00 p.m.
General Business Meeting

Monitored Painting/Drawing Sessions
are open to all artists.

Call Doug Smith to register (434-6225).

Tuesdays...

June 3, June 10, June 17, June 24
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 7
73rd Annual Spring Juried Exhibition
Opening Reception 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Exhibition continues through July 6th

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Dear Friends,

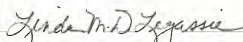
Spring is here and it's a wonderful time to remind you to renew or begin your membership with the Lyme Art Association. Now in our 96th season of continuous exhibitions, we are eager to present another delightful season of traditional fine art through our juried and member exhibitions. We bring you a diverse calendar of exhibitions showcasing the talented artists in our community. In addition to our exhibitions, we offer other educational fine art programs including workshops, artist's demonstrations, and lectures. Your membership contribution helps us to provide area artists a site to display their work, and gives you an opportunity to support this historic gallery—America's first gallery built and maintained by a summer art colony. Membership forms are enclosed in this issue of GALLERY NOTES. Thank you if you have already renewed.

Our exhibition season began in March with the statewide exhibition, "A Student and Teacher Art Show" featuring the work of 250 artists representing thirty schools. On the opening evening of the student and teacher art show, we hosted the Lyme-Old Lyme Parent Teacher Organizations benefit dance, "Young at Heart." Acting in response to the lack of funding for cultural programming for middle school students, parents and teachers have initiated a series of fund-raising events. "Everyone thought the gallery was a perfect location and this exhibition was an excellent backdrop for our cause," said Anna Flower, chairman. "Thanks to the hospitality of Linda and Norman Legassie and other Association members, we had a very successful event."

In other news, maintaining the gallery in showcase condition has been an overriding concern. In charting a course for the future, the executive committee and other members have consulted with several professionals regarding program funding and building restoration and improvements. Anna Van Wyck of Van Wyck Associates, LLC has agreed to pursue a fund-raising program for the Association. An "Advisory Council" has been created specifically for this project. The council members include: Nelson H. White, George C. White, Daniel O'Shea, David J. Cooksley, Fred Biebesheimer, and State Representatives Gary Orefice and Claire Sauer. This group of business leaders and professionals have given their whole-hearted support to the Association's fund-raising campaign. Artist member Nelson H. White has initiated the effort with a generous gift of \$2000. Thank you very much Nelson.

This season is sure to delight us with many opportunities. Please join us!

May the joy of the arts be forever in your hearts,


Linda M.D. Legassie, Director



Anna Van Wyck, fund-raising consultant and State Rep. Gary Orefice, share ideas on enhancing the Association's gallery and programs while viewing "A Connecticut Student and Teacher Art Show."

MISSION STATEMENT:

The object of the Association is to maintain an art gallery, to hold exhibitions and to advance the cause of fine art.

Donna Gilberto, *President*
Norman W. Legassie, *Vice President*
Kay Chester, *Treasurer*
Joann Ballinger, *Recording Secretary*

Colorful Reflections

As the spring approaches, it is easy to imagine why artists are attracted to this area as they have been throughout this century. Many of the early Lyme Art Colony members wintered in New York, associating with one another through various clubs and organizations. However, most of them were landscape painters and as soon as the weather broke would head back to Lyme where they loved to paint and sketch.

Allen B. Talcott wrote for the New Haven Union, "The idea was to arrive in spring before the buds came out."

By arriving early in the season, artists were able to witness the full transformation of their beloved landscape. In fact, the best way to study the anatomy of a tree is without its foliage. Then the first delicate buds appear, creating dashes of color reminiscent of Impressionist brush strokes. And what could be more inspirational than the wonderful scent of an apple tree in bloom?

These landscape painters worked

almost exclusively 'en plein aire' (out of doors) and often painted in groups. Their spirit of camaraderie not only offered moral support but also allowed for a free exchange of ideas. They shared many common interests, including their romantic views of nature.

On May 4, 1917, artist Robert Vonnob tried to lure his close friend and neighbor George M. Bruestle to Lyme by describing the spring in a note. "When are you coming down? The lilac leaves are half out and the elms are getting feathery. The maple buds are cautious and the cowslips are getting 'sassy.' A few yellow flowers in the fields here complete the spring touch but spring this year, is certainly late. I shall be glad to see you down."

Although much has changed in the years since Vonnob wrote that letter to Bruestle, it is comforting to note that some things have remained the same. Painters still like to share their experiences with one another and the natural beauty of this region that inspired painters in the past, continues to provide inspiration for artists to this day.

by Micheal Lloyd



A Notice to Artist Members

The LAA Members' Biography Book will be on display at our first exhibition in 1997. At present, there are thirty artists represented. It would be great to have one hundred percent of the artist members included. THERE IS STILL TIME! We could fill the book! Please deliver the following information to the gallery:

1. two color photos of your work (with size, medium, title)
2. photo of yourself
3. signature on a separate piece of paper
4. a biography about 200 words or less
5. \$20 check to LAA.

Many thanks to those who have participated thus far. I know it is not an easy task, but one well worth the effort. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (860) 887-2706.

Thank you,
Shirley Cean Youngs,
Chairman

A Call to Arms

There is a wonderful adage that says "many hands make light work"; and this is especially true in the world of volunteer organizations where people give their valuable time for a worthwhile cause. There are many reasons for people to become involved in volunteer activities, ranging from altruistic belief in the mission of the organization to a sense of personal fulfillment gained from participating in a community of kindred spirits. The Lyme Art Association is seeking people to assist us in our call "to maintain a gallery, hold exhibitions and advance the cause of fine art." In addition to the artist members who form the nucleus of the Associa-

tion, we are surrounded by a wealth of talent comprising the associate membership and the community at large.

Publicity is vital to the promotion of Exhibitions and Activities. Any one with experience in this department would be a welcome addition to our staff of volunteers with a potential seat on the Executive Committee. **Assistants to the Director** are also in demand for secretarial functions and clerical support to include mailing campaigns and the preparation of exhibition catalogs. **Docents** who provide information about artists and the history of the Association are needed to preside over the gallery during exhibitions and we also need

Nail Bangers to help install the shows...No less important than any of the above, we are looking for a **Key Person** from the neighborhood who can open the doors during the Exhibition Season and check to see that all is well when the gallery closes.

These positions are especially well suited for part-time involvement and can be shared by friends and acquaintances. Become a volunteer for the LYME ART ASSOCIATION and call (860) 434-7802. We would love to hear from you!

David Ward

A Thank You to Bill Babcock...

William H. Babcock became an artist member of the Lyme Art Association in 1970. Thirteen years later, he was elected president and served in that position until 1994. He continued to be active on the Executive Committee serving as an artist-member representative until his death this winter after a brief illness.

"Born and raised in the city of Groton, I have been drawing and painting all my life," Bill wrote recently in his biography for inclusion in a compilation of works by current artist members. His impressionist palette drew inspiration from the shoreline. "Having lived near the Thames River, boats and sea became my main interest, and subsequently, my subjects for painting and also my hobby."

He worked for more than 20 years as a draftsman at Electric Boat. He also studied commercial art and attended

the Art Students' League where he explored various media and studied with leading painters Griffith Cole, Nat Little, Lars Thorsen, and Winfield Scott Clime. He was also an elected artist member of the Mystic Art Association.

Bill could see the need for instruction in representational art and was a supporter of the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts. After the flood of June 1984, he rallied support and funding to reestablish the devastated studio and office spaces of the Lyme Academy which was then situated in the lower level of the Lyme Art Association building.

Another example of Bill's realization of the importance of promoting and encouraging art education was the creation of "A Connecticut Student and Teacher Art Show" hosted in the gallery each March as a celebration of Youth Art Month. Chaired by Deep River Elementary School art teacher, Diana DeWolf-Carfi, seventh annual exhibi-

tion held earlier this year included 30 schools, public and private displaying about 250 works of art.

Young people now, more than ever, in the present-day atmosphere of energy crisis, environmental pollution, economic problems and drugs, need a positive outlet for their emotions," said Mrs. DeWolf-Carfi. "Many skills are fostered through experience in the visual arts that are not possible in other subjects. An exhibition featuring their work provides a focus for informing the public that art education develops self-esteem, an appreciation of others, and a sense of pride in self expression. Thank you Bill and other members of the Lyme Art Association for allowing us to exhibit our special work in your special place."

An Invitation To Join Us

The Lyme Art Association membership is composed of noted artists, loyal patrons, and ardent admirers—anyone interested in sharing our enthusiasm for maintaining our historic building and providing a showcase for area artists to display their latest work. If you are interested in joining the LYME ART ASSOCIATION, please complete the enclosed card and mail it with check to:

THE LYME ART ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 222; 90 Lyme Street
Old Lyme, CT 06371

GALLERY NOTES

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

cut and mail

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Supporting - \$250

Contributing - \$100

Family - \$25

Associate \$20

Benefactor - \$2500 Other

Patron - \$1000

Business- from \$50

Your contribution beyond the first \$10 is tax deductible. THANK YOU.

Please complete card and mail with check to:

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Upcoming Events *cont.*

Sunday, July 6, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
96th Annual Summer Juried Exhibition
receiving day
and pick up day for 73rd Annual
Spring Juried Exhibition

Monitored Painting/Drawing Sessions
are open to all artists.
Call Doug Smith to register (434-6225).
Tuesdays...
July 1, July 8, July 15, July 22, July 29
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Monday, July 7, 12:00 to 4:30 p.m.
96th Annual Summer Juried Exhibition
receiving day

Saturday, July 12
96th Annual Summer Juried Exhibition
Opening Reception 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Exhibition continues through Aug. 10.

Let The Workshops Begin

The inaugural season of the Lyme Art Association Workshop Program starts on June 1. The goal of this program offers a productive, intensive study experience to artists of all levels. Workshops will be taught in the Association's large studio or in one of four spacious gallery rooms, all offering exceptional natural light. The beautiful countryside in and around Old Lyme will become an outdoor classroom. Friday evening lectures will be presented as a preview of the weekend sessions. You do not need to be participating in the workshops to attend the Friday evening lectures. A \$3 donation is payable at the door. Call Doug Smith at (860) 434-6225 for more information.

A brochure describing the two-five-day workshops with instruction in drawing, painting and sculpture is now available and has been mailed to LAA members and shoreline artists. Thanks to Doug Smith, Al Perry, Betty Kusche and Bill Kusche for their volunteer efforts in producing the brochure. Special thanks to Essex Savings Bank's Customer Ballot Program for their support, in part, for the printing of the brochure.

Artists at Work

"Visions at Sea: An exhibit of contemporary maritime paintings" was at the Gregory Gallery in Darien, through April 12, included the work of Rachel Armstrong, Roger Dennis, Doug Smith and others...Rachel Armstrong was also among ten artists exhibiting in "Rendezvous at Equinox" at the University of Connecticut's Branford House, Avery Point, Groton through April 13... "Roger Dennis: A Tribute: Paintings from a private collection" is on view at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum through May 31... "4 - 4 Art" featured the painting of Carol Clark, Denette Dasinger, Pam J. Nelson and Elaine Steinhilber through April 26 at the Hoxie Gallery in Westerly, RI...Rachel Armstrong, Joann Ballinger, Norman Legassie, Barbara Maiser, Doug Smith and Nelson H. White are participating in the inaugural exhibit of BARE "Bringing Art to the Research Environment" presented by Pfizer Central Research through July 14th...Judith Reeve has been accepted into the Copley Society, Boston, Massachusetts.



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